

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON TUESDAY,
21ST APRIL AT 9:30 AM**

Attendance:

Councillors: Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Pat Kehoe (Leas-Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Aidan Browne
Cllr. Trish Byrne
Cllr. John O'Rourke
Cllr. Jackser Owens

Officials: Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Service
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Ms. Barbara Nolan, Staff Officer
Ms. Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Mr. Enda Waters, Executive Engineer Special Projects
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. David Wall, Executive Planner
Ms. Siobhan Lynn, Administrative Officer, Roads

On Teams: Cllr. John O'Rourke (part of meeting)

Sympathies:

The members expressed their sympathy to following: -

- The Kearns family on the recent death of Mr Matty Kearns, Roads Section WCC
- The Heffernan & Redmond families on the recent passing of Amy Heffernan (I.T. Section, WCC).
- Amanda Byrne, Wexford County Council on the recent passing of her father, Peter

Congratulations:

The members expressed their congratulations to the following

- Siobhan Doyle on winning a Gold Medal with the over 65s Relay Team in Poland recently
- Bernie Miller winner of the Hyrox Leinster Championship
- Ferns United Women's Football Team who won the Leinster Trophy.
- Katie Whelan who got her first cap for Ireland at the Women's Six Nations Rugby.
- Jesse Sludds, who won the Late Late Show Opening Act Competition

- Baile Dubh Tire Ladies football team who became Wexford Féile Champions and will represent Wexford in Féile 2026.

The members congratulated all involved in organising the recent Civic Awards Ceremony on a very enjoyable and successful event.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1.1 Minutes of the March Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 24th March 2026

On the proposal of Cllr Keogh, seconded by Cllr O'Rourke, the Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 24th March 2026 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

The Members raised the following concerns

- Cllr O'Rourke thanked the District Manager in relation to recent correspondence from Minister Murnane O'Connor and advised that he will persist until the meeting takes place.
- Cllr O'Rourke asked for an update on the Columbarium Wall and the Outdoor Gym equipment.
- Cllr Owens requested an update on the Sunday opening for Pharmacies.
- Cathaoirleach Cllr Murphy asked for an update on the re-scheduled Blacktown Delegation visit

The District Manager advised that work on the Columbarium Wall will start next week, the costs are in the region of €12,000.

To date the Manager has not received a response to her correspondence to the Pharmacies. It was agreed that a motion would be brought to the next full Council meeting regarding Sunday opening.

The Blacktown Delegation propose to visit at the end of July/first week of August.

2.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. Executive Planner, Mr. David Wall answered questions and queries from the Members, in particular: -

- Planning Application for 20 houses at St Joseph's, Greenville Court – concerns about access – Mr Wall to revert on this.
- Ensuring that footpaths and other finishes are included in the Planning for new developments.

Mr Wall advised that Planning will always look for a Roads contribution towards infrastructure requirements before the development begins. There is scope for other infrastructure within housing planning applications.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

The Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted and various issues discussed – in particular: -

- Disused wheelie bins being left out on streets. Can they be removed by the Council and stored?
- The Fire Service was complimented on being present at two recent community events, providing information and advice on fire safety. This information service is very important for the community and should be continued.
- Cllr Browne sought clarification on the CLÁR Programme. Measure 1 is administered through the Local Authorities – there is funding of up to €65,000 for 12 projects and up to €100,000 for 2 projects.

Executive Scientist Siobhan Murphy agreed that out of service bins being left around are a huge problem. However, the bins are the property of the bin companies, and the Council would not be able to remove them. The onus is on the householder and the bin companies. It was pointed out that as bin charges are increasing there may be more abandoned wheelie bins and it is important to continue to carry out bin surveys and use the statutory provisions that are available. Director of Service Carolyne Godkin suggested that linking in with the Community Safety partnership may be an option here. It could also be approached by fining under the Littering Act.

At 9:58 Cllr Owens left the meeting

Cllr O'Rourke left the meeting at 10:02 and continued on Teams

2.3 Housing

2.3.1 Housing Acquisitions/Allocations & 2.3.2 Housing Capital

The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. Senior Staff Officer Roseanne Redmond answered the members queries, in particular: -

- Demand for 4 bed units
- Timelines for delivery of 31 new build properties
- Environmental issues reported under Estate Management

The members welcomed the detailed report on current demand. A discussion followed about the data and the fact that people won't state on their Housing Application where they want to live, instead, they will put down where they think there are properties. This results in skewed data in terms of demand. A discussion was had about having more than three areas of choice on the form.

Ms Redmond advised that housing applicants are encouraged to put as their first choice on the form, where they want to live. Areas 2 & 3 should be where they are willing to live. This way the demand data can be accurately captured but they still have other options for accommodation. She also reminded the members that

when using CBL an applicant can express an interest in any area, even if it is not one of their areas of choice on the form and they can be considered for that property. Cllr Kehoe suggested an information campaign to advise applicants about areas of choice. Ms Redmond will discuss with the House SEO but pointed out that the Area Housing Officers do advise prospective applicants of this when they meet with them.

On demand for certain types of property, Ms Redmond advised that there is an Expression of Interest open currently for developers to build. When the Housing Section meet with developers they encourage them to provide both 1 & 2 beds and 4 x beds. Recently an exercise was carried out on the current stock of 4 x beds where there are properties which are underoccupied. Tenants were contacted and encouraged to downsize. The response was poor and there is currently no legal basis to force tenants to downsize.

Of the 31 new build properties due to be delivered 17 are due for 2026 and 14 for 2027.

Cllr Murphy expressed frustration at this figure given that there are 362 applicants on the list.

Cllr Kehoe – welcomed developments at the Lyre. He queried the situation regarding further acquisition of lands for development. Housing Capital to revert on this.

Ms Redmond advised that support is being given to an AHB to provide 1 and 2 bed properties – this is in the pipeline and is in addition to the 31 new build figure.

On Estate Management – Ms Redmond advised that the issue can be reported in the first instance to the HLO who looks after Estate Management and they usually link in with the Environment Warden to work on the issue. This joined up approach usually yields results.

2.4 Municipal District Report

The District Manager reported on the following items:

- Proposed date for the meeting with Tullow Municipal District is 6th May 2026 at 11:00 am in Bunclody Golf Club.
- Part 8 Planning granted for Pairc na Gabhair
- Playground & Skate Park at Turret Rocks – will be preparing Sports Capital Funding Application
- Astro Pitch Changing Room
- Successful visit to London

Cllr O'Rourke asked if there was funding for a Playground in The Moyne as there are no play/recreational facilities in that area. He also queried is there funding for clean-up or upgrade of current playgrounds.

Director of Service advised that the area in question is not big enough for a playground and they will look at other suitable sites in the area.

Clean-up and upgrade of Playgrounds come under the remit of Community Section.

Cllr Murphy welcomed the progress on CCTV for Bunclody and enforcement of Parking Byelaws in Bunclody. She encouraged the EMD Members to attend the meeting with Tullow MD in May as there are many overlapping areas of concern.

Cathaoirleach called for a break at 10:32 for tea. The meeting resumed at 10:49.

2.5 Roads Report.

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Executive Engineer, Mr Neil Dempsey answered questions and queries from the Members, in particular: -

- Works on Esmonde Road – the Engineer is working on a temporary solution; this should be sorted by next week.
- Local Improvement Scheme – Letters of offer have gone out, once accepted Mr Dempsey will send out a schedule and will inform the Councillors of locations
- Sight lines at crossing in Bunclody – Mr Dempsey is aware of this and will be working on a solution.

The Members praised the resurfacing works that have been completed by the Engineer and the crews (15k) and look forward to further improvements once the flood relief funding comes through.

2.5.1 Draft Parking Byelaws

Ms Siobhan Lynn updated the members on the proposed county wide Parking Byelaws. The aim is to modernise the byelaws with the same definitions across the county. Once these are adopted any changes locally will not have to go through the process of changing byelaws, they will just need signage and lineage to add or amend areas of parking. Roads Section will be seeking adoption in principle from the full Council. The byelaws will then be forwarded for approval by AGS, and this will be followed by a Public Consultation.

The proposed bylaws were welcomed by the Members. A query was raised about Commercial Permits and were employees of business owners eligible for these Permits. It was confirmed that the permits are just for the business owners.

On the proposal of Cllr Kehoe, seconded by Cllr Byrne the Draft Parking Byelaws were approved in principle.

2.7 Flood Defence Report

The Flood Defence Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Mr Enda Waters confirmed that the Tender is now closed. Seven applications were received and they are now getting ready to move on to the second phase.

2.7 Special Projects.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Special Projects will attend the June meeting.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members.

None

4. Correspondence

The District Manager advised that Enniscorthy Musical Society, Reachability and Bree-Davidstown Community Games had contacted the Municipal Office to express their gratitude to the Members on being awarded Amenity Grants.

5. Any Other Business

It was proposed by Cllr Kehoe and seconded by Cllr Browne that the Shop Front Flower Grant scheme be amended as laid out in the Manager's Report.

The members thanked the organisers of the Easter Monday Commemorations for a job well done.

Cllr Browne reminded all about the Darkness into Light walk on 9th May and requested that the Castle be lit up for the occasion.

This concluded matters at 11:14 am

Barbara Anne Murphy

CATHAOIRLEACH

19th May 2026

DATE